

Jerusalem Post

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## Clinton hopeful on Syrian track



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu meets with US President Bill Clinton in the Oval Office yesterday.

to Israel of F-15 fighters, as well as continued cooperative development of a theater missile-defense program and the Arrow missile, would "strengthen Israel's defense against attacks."  
Netanyahu responded by lauding Clinton's "unshakeable commitment to Israel's security" and said he left their meeting with a "renewed confidence" in Israel's ability to pursue peace.  
"The pursuit of peace and the practice of terror are incompatible. For negotiations to succeed, there must be a climate of stability and tranquility," Clinton said.  
Asked about the case of Hamas political leader Moussa Abu Marzook, currently detained in New York pending extradition to Israel, Clinton said the matter was not discussed in the meeting and that he "cannot discuss it until it's resolved in our courts."  
There were reports earlier that Israel was seeking to have Marzook be deported to Jordan so as not to test Hamas threats to carry out retaliatory acts of terror should he be extradited to Israel for trial.  
Clinton said he believes Netanyahu "has thought through a way" to maintain the momentum of the Hebron accord, consistent with Israel's security needs.  
"It's obvious he's been thinking very hard about this," Clinton said. "I was encouraged by that."  
The president called Tuesday's

Continued on Page 14

### Bank workers strike today

**By GALIT LIPKIS BECK**  
The country's bank workers, with the exception of those at Maritime Bank and Carmel Bank, will strike today as part of their struggle to move to a five-day workweek.  
For over two years, the banking sector's 40,000 workers have been pushing, with the Histadrut's support, to shift from a six- to a five-day workweek.  
"All banks will be closed with the exception of border crossing branches," said Zion Shema, head of the Histadrut's bank workers division.  
Bank spokesmen said automatic teller machines and bank telephone services will be operating.  
If the banking sector strikes, Friday will not be considered a business day, the Bank of Israel said yesterday.  
Earlier this week, the National Labor Court rejected

**By HILLEL KUTTLER and agencies**

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton said yesterday that talks with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu have left him encouraged about prospects for resuming Israeli-Syrian peace talks, although he offered no specifics.  
"I'm hopeful we can get the Syrian track going again... I do feel encouraged by the discussions we've had, that there are things worth working on; but I have nothing specific to say at this time," Clinton told a White House press conference.  
The talks between the two leaders, which lasted for some three hours, focused on both the state of Israeli-Palestinian relations as well as reviving Israeli-Syrian negotiations, now dormant for nearly a year.  
Clinton said he would "very much" like to see the talks resume, calling them "a very important part" of the peace process, and said he is convinced both sides want to come back to the negotiating table. He added that he was "encouraged" by ideas he'd heard from Netanyahu, but would not elaborate.  
Clinton affirmed that even if the rumored sale of 100 F-16 fighters to Saudi Arabia goes through, the US will assure Israel's continued qualitative edge. He also stated that the US would "do what we can to assure" that Russian assistance in developing a long-range missile for Iran would not erode

Israel's edge.  
The president also supported statements made earlier in the

week by US Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk, that a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from southern

Lebanon would not be wise. However, he said the US should be "deferential" on the matter and

not dictate how Israel determines its security needs in the North. The upcoming delivery this year

### Outrage over 'Holocaust cookbook'

**By TOM GROSS**  
A book of 82 recipes written by women in a Nazi concentration camp has become a surprise publishing success in the United States, pleasing some and outraging many.  
The recipes - including ones for chicken galantine, breast of goose, apple omelette, and cherry-plum dumplings - were written in the so-called "model" Nazi camp of Terezin, where internees were briefly allowed to pursue artistic activities including drama, opera, and drawing to dupe the International Red Cross.  
In *Memory's Kitchen: A Legacy from the Women of Terezin* was named down by over 30 publishers before the small Brooklyn-based Judaica Press agreed to accept it. An initial print run of 3,000 sold out and there have been several further printings to keep up with demand. It has been reviewed in *The New York Times*, and several magazines have featured its recipes.  
Translated by Bianca Steiner Brown, a survivor of Terezin who went on to become an editor at *Gourmet* magazine, the book's foreword was written by Michael Berenbaum, director of the US

Holocaust Museum in Washington.  
While some call the publication of *In Memory's Kitchen* an inspired testimony to the survival of the spirit under nightmarish conditions, others dismiss the "Holocaust cookbook" as being in the worst possible taste. Efraim Zurorf, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Israel office, called the publication "sick."  
"It's beyond me why anyone would publish a cookbook of imaginary recipes," said Zurorf. "Is this going to compete with imaginary cookbooks from Auschwitz or Treblinka? I'm sure the imaginary recipes there were much more descriptive as the conditions were far worse."

**Dow tops 7,000**  
NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Dow Jones industrial average closed above 7,000 points for the first time yesterday, reflecting low interest rates and non-inflationary economic growth. Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow ended up 61.19 points, or 0.88 percent, at a record 7,022.82.

### Croatian president appeals for ties with Israel

**By STEVE RODAN**  
Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, boycotted by Israel because of his controversial book, has appealed to the government of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to establish full diplomatic ties with his country.  
"I look forward to the most comprehensive, deepest relations between Israel and Croatia," he said in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*. "We think that Israel can represent a positive model. The Israeli experience is very important for us."  
Tudjman said Croatia wants to establish ties in many areas, particularly in defense. He said Zagreb seeks Israel's help in military modernization and industrial cooperation.  
Last month, Tudjman published the English-language edition of his book, retitled *Horror of War*, which will be distributed in several weeks in the US. The original book, which had included quotes deemed antisemitic, had angered Jews and Israelis.  
"The English edition is a revised edition," he said. "We omitted parts that were delicate and even irritating to a portion of those Jewish readers who didn't read all the book but who heard about the book or came across excerpts that

came from Serbian circles inimical to Croatia and Tudjman."  
They interpreted these excerpts to mean that the book was antisemitic, he said.  
Meanwhile, Israeli officials said that they are in no rush to establish

relations with Zagreb. They said they will need time to read Tudjman's book and determine whether it has resolved Jewish concerns.  
A full interview with Tudjman appears in today's *Magazine*.

### Public against Friday bank closure, Page 18

ed the Banks Association's application to issue an injunction prohibiting the strike.  
The workers' committees claim bank managers refusal to sign a five-day workweek agreement leaves them no option but to strike every Friday, starting this week.  
In most cases, Shema said, the managers are refusing to even discuss the issue with workers, even though the Antitrust Court, which was asked to approve the transition to a five-day workweek, ruled that the employees' demand is legitimate, but must not be met by the banks as a group.  
"We have never been so determined to strike as we

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הפוסט

# Crash report due today

By **ARIEH O'SULLIVAN**

The board of inquiry investigating last week's helicopter collision in the North that killed 73 soldiers is to present its interim findings to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai today. Mordechai has ordered that the findings be discussed with the families of the fallen and by the government before they are released to the public. However, sources close to inquiry, headed by former OC Air Force and Defense Ministry director-general David Ivry, said

human error was the likely cause of the crash. Nothing dramatic is expected in the interim findings. Mordechai is to update President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on the contents of the report. This morning, Mordechai is to discuss the interim findings and their ramifications with Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu. Mordechai's media adviser Avi Benayahu stressed that the report is an interim one and should be

treated as such. The commission was given 45 days to submit its full report. The five-man panel has spent the days since the collision questioning witnesses, going over radio transmissions and flying in a CH-53 helicopter to try to determine how the two helicopters collided above the northern border settlement of Sha'ar Yashuv. The CH-53 helicopter, also known as the Yasur, is not fitted with a "black box" to record flight information. Military sources have said that the heli-

copters were not flying in formation but were waiting together for permission to cross the border into Lebanon when the collision occurred. Channel 2 reported that there was at least one witness to the collision. One helicopter apparently slammed into the other and plummeted to the ground. The pilot of the second helicopter radioed "I have a malfunction," ejected his fuel tanks and tried to stabilize the helicopter to make an emergency landing, but failed. The commission is expected to



David Ivry (Dan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

move on to consolidating new regulations and safety procedures to prevent future accidents.

## NEWS

in brief

### Golan Druse raise Syrian flag

Syrian flags were raised over schools in the Golan Heights Druse villages of Majdal Shams and Bukata yesterday, as residents prepared to mark today's anniversary of their general strike in 1982 against Israeli annexation and their being issued Israeli identity cards. The schools were closed as dozens of pupils took part in a parade in the main square in Majdal Shams. *David Rudge*

### Beit She'an Engines to keep running

The jobs of 35 workers at the troubled Beit She'an Engines factory were saved this week, after the Defense Ministry agreed to supply the firm with more orders. The owners of the 25-year-old company, which overhauls IDF vehicle engines, closed the factory last week and sent out dismissal notices, because there were not enough orders to keep going. *David Rudge*

### Peres apologizes for 'copter crash comments

Labor Chairman MK Shimon Peres apologized for talking of the need to "draw conclusions" about Israel's presence in Lebanon immediately after the helicopter collision last week, his media adviser, Aliza Goren said yesterday. Peres, who was in Switzerland at the time, commented soon after the accident, before he learned of the scope of the tragedy, Goren said. *Michal Yudelman*

## IAF continues Lebanon raids

By **DAVID RUDGE**

Tension remains high in Lebanon following further air force raids on suspected Hizbullah infiltration trails and targets north of the security zone late on Wednesday night and early yesterday. Reports from Lebanon said helicopter gunships raked crossing points over the Litani River and nearby wadis, north of Kawkabeh village, as well as in the region of

Markabeh and Talousa villages. According to the reports, helicopter gunships also were in action around the villages of Ein A-Tineh, Makkoun and parts of the southern reaches of the Bekaa Valley. The reports said that IDF gunners

shelled suspected Hizbullah targets in the Iqlim al-Toufah region and other areas north of the zone. Lebanese observers said it appeared the activities were preemp-

tive and aimed primarily at thwarting Hizbullah attempts to plant bomb and infiltrate into the zone. The incidents yesterday followed IAF raids on Hizbullah targets and bases of Ahmed Jibril's PFLP-General Command in the Bekaa

Valley and south of Beirut on Tuesday. Those air strikes - the deepest into Lebanese territory since Operation Grapes of Wrath last April - were seen as a message to Syria and Lebanon to restrain Hizbullah. Israel Radio reported that the IDF is returning to full operational duties in south Lebanon following last week's helicopter disaster.

## France, Israel herald new, cooperative era

By **STEVE RODAN and ELAD BECK**

France and Israel have agreed to step up cooperation in the fight against terrorism and to hold semi-annual dialogues on strategic issues, official said last night. Details of the new relationship were announced at a joint Tel Aviv news conference by visiting French Defense Minister Charles Millon and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai. Millon, who concluded a two-day visit in which he toured military bases and defense industries, said reciprocal visits would be made by the two countries' chiefs of staff. He added that Mordechai is to visit Paris in June with OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu. Regarding terrorism, Millon said, "We understand very well this threat to Israel. We promise the full cooperation of France in this sphere. He pledged that the French intelligence services would cooperate fully in exchanging information on terrorist organizations. Mordechai expressed satisfaction with the visit and expressed hope France would remain active in countering terrorism and acting against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. "I see you as the ambassador of the Israeli defense establishment in France," Mordechai told Millon. Interviewed yesterday by Europe 1 radio, Millon said

France is willing to join other countries - mainly the US - in guaranteeing a future treaty among Israel, Syria, and Lebanon in order to prove it is possible to implement the principle of land for peace. "For many years, France has maintained friendly relations with Israel and the Arab states, and it would like to offer its services to all parties for the success of the peace process," Millon said. French diplomatic sources said France might send buffer forces to help guarantee a settlement, but stressed it is not realistic to believe an agreement can be reached separately with Lebanon. The officials said earlier this week, after a meeting between French President Jacques Chirac and Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, that France is willing to consider sending such a force only after a comprehensive agreement. Meanwhile, the French weekly, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, reported yesterday that France has proposed granting political asylum to Gen. Antoine Lahad, commander of the South Lebanese Army, as part of an international agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from the security zone. According to the magazine, the proposal was discussed at a secret meeting last December in Paris between French defense officials and Israeli emissaries, led by former Defense Ministry director-general David Ivry. Lahad's family already resides in France.

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Corruption and conversion

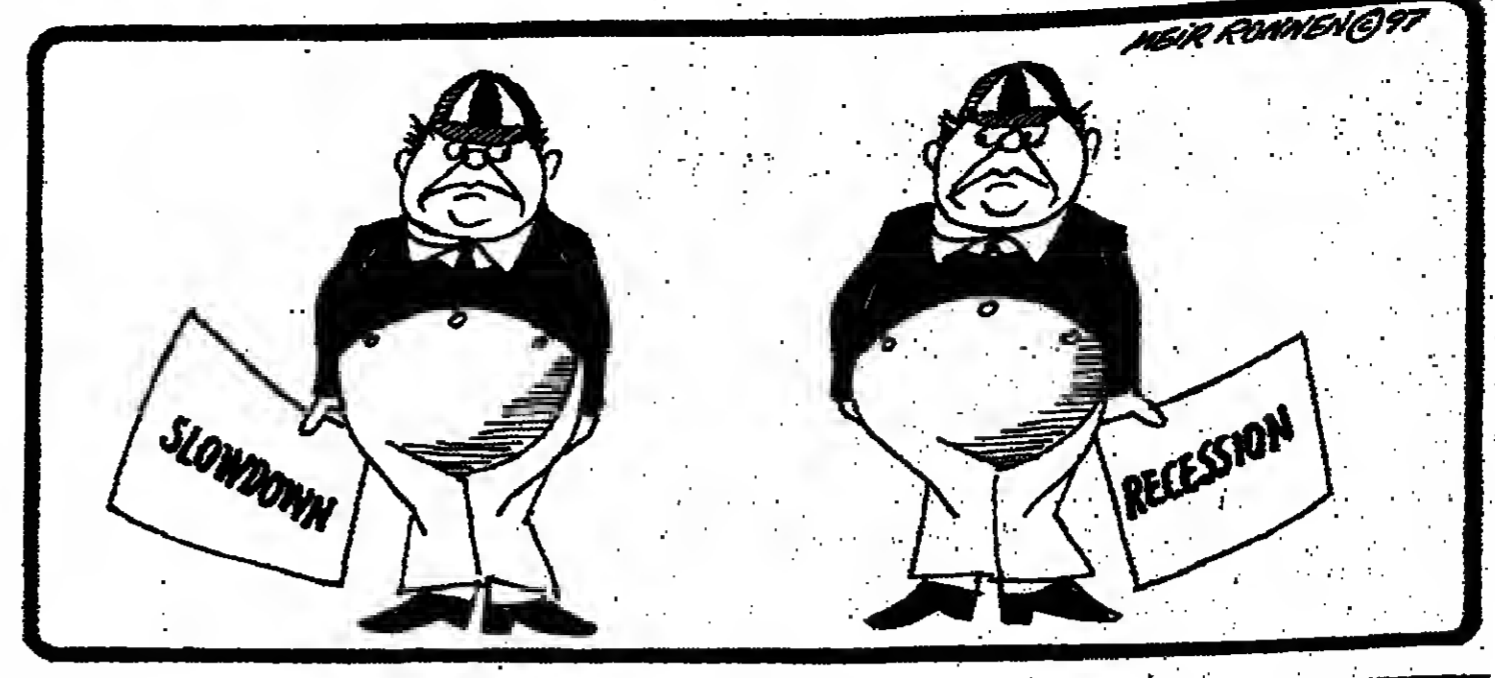
This week's dramatic expose of an alleged bribes-for-conversion scheme by the Channel 2 program, Fact, was met with denials of widespread corruption from the Chief Rabbinate. The police are to be commended for moving quickly and remanding Rabbi Michael Dushinsky, who was filmed taking \$15,000 from a couple posing as would-be converts...

waived, "acceptance" can be interpreted in either a broad or strict fashion. The first Sephardi chief rabbi of Israel, Ben-Zion Meir Uziel, did not regard a commitment to follow all the mitzvot to be a prerequisite for conversion. Today, however, would-be converts are being refused by the Rabbinate on the grounds that they live on a secular kibbutz, or are not willing to educate their children in the Orthodox school system...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OBJECTIVE REPORTING
ASHAMED
VOTING ABROAD
AUSTRALIA-ISRAEL TRADE
SWEET REASON
SMOKING IS DANGEROUS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (cont.)
VICTOR AND VANQUISHED
SMOKING IS DANGEROUS (cont.)



Unfreeze the Syrian track

Itamar Rabinovitch's book The Road Not Taken portrays me as lurking prime minister Ben-Gurion and foreign minister Moshe Sharett to negotiate with the Syrian dictator Husein Zaim back in 1949! Those who say history cannot be changed have never read an elder statesman's memoirs.

ABBA EBAN
I am sure that Syria at that time "only" wanted half of Lake Kinneret, but I was confident that Ben-Gurion would know how to say no with maximal resonance.

judged according to his ability to maneuver within the range of feasibility. This a very far cry from the original Likud positions, such as leaving the Golan in Israel's exclusive hands, and pretending that we can satisfy Damascus with water and security.

Moral of the story: Terror pays

Our nation is embroiled in a fierce and passionate debate over whether or not to withdraw unilaterally from the security zone in Lebanon. The issue has, of course, taken on greater urgency as a result of the tragic helicopter crash on a day of the heaviest Arab terrorist bombardment of our northern border.

ESTHER WACHSMAN
Deif's capture as a top American priority. He went even further, stating that the continuation of the peace process - specifically, the redeployment in Hebron - was contingent on Deif's arrest.

the Palestinians was a slap in the face to our family. In rewarding terror and murder, it was a degradation of Jewish life. For as long as I can remember, every government in Israel firmly asserted that terrorists "with blood on their hands" would never be released. We freed Palestinian women murderers this week.

When killers go free and murderers are rewarded, Jewish blood has become cheap in the Jewish homeland

sanctuary and a hero's welcome within the areas of the Palestinian Authority. The most recent was the murder of a Jerusalem contractor, Ya'acov Yemin. His killer calmly hailed a cab to Bethlehem, where he was given sanctuary, and no one is demanding justice.

POSTSCRIPTS
A WITCH-BURNING ceremony in Australia turned into a brawl when feminist protesters tried to drag an effigy of a witch from the top of a huge pyre.

STOP RIGHT there or the rooster gets it! A 70-year-old Long Island man took his flock of hens and roosters hostage, threatening to kill one each minute unless police and sanitation workers, sent to clean up his jiggled yard, left the property.





A president at home with his people



It is a private moment in a public place. As Pauline Posner lights a memorial candle for her son Gidon...

Ezer Weizman's 73 condolence visits strengthened the resolve of the mourners and provided a sense of national unity. Amy Klein trailed the president

But it is more his personality that makes Weizman particularly suited for this monumental task. "He has no sense of 'distance'..."

his impending visit to London to meet the Queen. "If we were in England, the Queen wouldn't sit with us..."

the photo album of Gidon, in uniform on the base, on kibbutz with his adopted family...



An honored guest at the homes of the fallen (from top left, counterclockwise): President Weizman (far right) pays a call to the family of Rafi Balalti in Migdal Ha'emek...

Weizman redefines the role

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR. When history looks back on Ezer Weizman's term as president, it may well be this week's "whistle stop" tour...

how it is possible to overcome it. Unlike most of his predecessors, and in the true tradition of a military man...

for many of his successors, with the notable exception of Yitzhak Navon - an ivory-tower figure, who mainly met the nation on formal occasions...

his foot in his mouth and with little patience for the niceties of protocol. And indeed, Weizman soon proved that words were not his strong point...

And at the same time, he was kicking up the dust with remarks to the government. It started most notably with his call on Labor, the party that had voted him in...

ing the prime minister's arm as Netanyahu stood by his side to say the Prime Minister's Office would decide on a date to meet with Arafat.

up a power base of his own. The presidency began emerging as a kind of check-and-balance with the power of the prime minister...

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A mob of angry young men roamed the streets. The night cracked with the sound of windows breaking, shattered by rocks hurled with a vengeance. Incited by shouts of "Kill the Jew," roving youths pounced on the passer-by and fatally stabbed him.

The riots that lasted for four hot August nights and days in 1991 made Crown Heights famous. No longer known as the base of Habad, the Brooklyn enclave became synonymous with a modern "pogrom."

And Yankel Rosenbaum, who was knifed simply for being a Hassid, became the bloody symbol of the Jew, threatened by neighbors, and betrayed by authorities who failed to come to the rescue.

Five years later, the US federal government prevailed where the state of New York had failed. Earlier this week, two black men were convicted in federal court of violating Rosenbaum's civil rights. The jury found Charles Price incited the mob, and Lemrick Nelson Jr., now 21, was the youth who had stabbed Rosenbaum, a native of Australia. Several years earlier, a state court had cleared Nelson on

criminal murder charges, which seemed to confirm Jewish suspicions that there was no justice in Brooklyn.

When the guilty verdicts were announced, New York remained eerily quiet. It was not the lull that precedes a storm, but a clue that Crown Heights, traumatic though it was, was not the prism through which to view black-Jewish relations.

In fact, there may be no prism at all.

"The reality is that there is no one black-Jewish relationship, but many different kinds of relationships," said Jonathan Rieder, the co-editor of *Common Quest: The Magazine of Black-Jewish Relations*. These relations, though, added Rieder, tend to be measured by highly sensational spectacles: the Reverend Jesse Jackson referring to New York as "Hymie town," the sizzling speeches of the Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, the riots in Crown Heights.

"These extraordinary moments become ritual spectacles that simplify what is a complicated reality," Rieder said. "We look at these

# Justice in Brooklyn

Verdicts were handed down in the Crown Heights murder case this week, Marilyn Henry reports

moments when the two communities seem to be squaring off when, in fact, there are millions of ordinary African-American and Jewish people who do not hate one another and who are not part of these frenzies."

When it comes to gauging relations, "Crown Heights is an aberration," said Rieder, who also serves as the chairman of the sociology department at Barnard College, Columbia University.

The view of race relations also is clouded by nostalgia. "Black-Jewish relations were never as good as the romance suggests and not nearly as dire as the headlines imply," Clarence Page, an African-

American syndicated columnist, said.

But what a romance. The Jews were disproportionately active in the American civil rights movement, drawing on a tradition of sympathy toward blacks that stretched back to the days of the great influx of immigrants from Eastern Europe. These Jewish immigrants were did not adopt white racism, which, at its most egregious, was notorious for abducting and lynching blacks.

"Eastern European Jews saw in the lynching of blacks a parallel to the pogroms they had suffered," Rieder said.

In Crown Heights, the histories of

blacks and Jews later would haunt events by highlighting their different ways of framing the world. Yet, on most days, Crown Heights was "not a bad approximation of coexistence," Rieder said.

While many Jews are in suburban or urban sanctuaries, the Hassidim live an integrated existence with blacks, who themselves are an eclectic community of African-Americans and Afro-Caribbeans, people from the West Indies. It is a neighborhood of klezmer and calypso, Rieder said. "Here are two peoples trying to work out how to belong to America while maintaining what is unique about their religion, music, and cuisine."

THE 1991 riots in Crown Heights began on the evening of August 19, when the driver of a car in the motorcade of the Lubavitcher rebbe struck a seven-year-old black boy named Gavin Cato, who was playing on the sidewalk. The child's death, though accidental, was the catalyst for the disturbances.

The police did not arrest the driver, Yosef Lifsch, which was seen as a double standard in law enforcement. Their rumors began flying that a Jewish volunteer ambulance service refused to treat black victims in favor of the driver. What had happened, though, was that police had told the ambulance crew to take the driver from the scene to ease the tension after officials saw black men assaulting those in the Lubavitch vehicle, the state report said.

The police reaction to the death of Gavin Cato, seen in the light of black experience with the American legal system, seemed to prove to many blacks that they would not get fair treatment. For the Jews, the police inaction in quelling the uproar fueled their worst fears.

Imagine, said Rieder, Lubavitchers in Crown Heights, for whom the lesson "never again" is vital, living wisdom. "And now rioters are on the street breaking their windows and the police are not maintaining order," he said. "All of these [people] could easily take that terror and trauma as a sign that it could happen again, it is Kristallnacht. You could wrap what is urban conflict in America into some grander Jewish narrative of the abandonment and attack on the Jews."

In the weeks after the riots, dozens of churches in Brooklyn and Manhattan gave powerful denunciations of antisemitism and the killing of Yankel Rosenbaum. But the killing of Yankel Rosenbaum, as they were overshadowed, "if you are a Jew and look around America at people saying hateful things about Jews, African-Americans are quite visible," Rieder said.

Just as many Lubavitchers viewed the riot through the Jewish experience and saw Kristallnacht, the Afro-Caribbeans and African-Americans in Crown Heights peer through a legacy of racial resentment.

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## On the right side of the issues

Charles Krauthammer, the unpredictable, confrontational, neo-conservative journalist, talks to Hillel Kuttler in Washington

AFTER Israel's shelling of a UN camp in Qana, south Lebanon, last April, killing more than 100 Lebanese refugees, much of the media asked why the IDF fired and whether Hizbullah had provoked it.

Syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer had a different take. "What are well-armed UN troops doing allowing guerrillas to fire rockets from within yards of a UN camp? After all, the UN itself says that each UNIFIL post 'is assigned responsibility for ensuring that hostile activities are not undertaken from the areas surrounding it,'" he wrote in the weekly *Standard*, a new American conservative magazine.

When he writes about the Middle East, which he does regularly, Krauthammer maintains that many things aren't right. He has criticized PLO chairman Yasser Arafat for evading Palestinian commitments under the Oslo accords and pronounced himself "absolutely staggered" by Labor's initiation of what he calls out a peace process but a "withdrawal process." Krauthammer also finds

Secretary of State Warren Christopher culpable for leading what he calls a "hopelessly misguided" foreign policy meant to draw Syrian President Hafez Assad into reacting a peace treaty with Israel.

There is Assad. In a *Washington Post* column last June, Krauthammer penned a fictional letter from President Clinton to Assad that opened: "Dear Hafez: You sonofabitch."

Within days, a letter to the editor criticized the paper for permitting a key Arab leader to be mocked in this manner. The author, however, is unrepentant. "Sonofabitch is actually a mild term to describe a world-class thug and butcher," Krauthammer says now. "Even if it had not been a satiric column, even if I had meant it seriously, it would have been perfectly appropriate... I think it's absolutely disgraceful how we sugar-coat the real nature of some of the thugs on the planet."

Having said that, Krauthammer might still have excused the US approach. "I am not against immoral foreign policies if they



Krauthammer 'has been to the future, and it works.'

work," he says.

MANY WASHINGTON columnists create a niche and park themselves in it, be it foreign affairs, domestic policy, or social justice. While such matters capture his fancy, Krauthammer is apt to tackle any topic. He torpedoes to the heart of an issue and articulates an

argument in a way that leaves admirers impressed by the surprising logic of it all.

In short, Krauthammer, 46, is unpredictable. He wrote one *Post* column glorifying the film *Independence Day*. In a *Time* magazine piece, he wrote, in awe, of how IBM's Deep Blue computer won a game against chess champion Garry Kasparov.

Although a conservative, he's hard to pin down. In the *Post* he criticized plans to transfer a sex criminal to a mental hospital after his prison sentence was completed. He loves books and newspapers but is certain the Internet will eventually supplant them because he has "been over to the future, and it works."

He also cut against the grain of an America that cast Shannon Lucid as a hero for her recent marathon visit to outer space. To Krauthammer, "spending six months in an orbiting phone booth with a couple of guys named Yuri is an apt reflection on our times of domesticated, miniaturized aspirations."

Even when he doesn't have a particular issue in mind, "the Lord provides, with stunning regularity, somebody, somewhere, who does something outrageous, moronic, hilarious, unbelievable, parodic" to write about.

Says Gordon Peterson, a local anchorman on whose weekly program *Inside Washington* Krauthammer is a regular panelist: "He's absolutely brilliant. If I come up one person short, I can use him on both sides. But you can't pigeonhole him, that he'll argue the conservative line... He was one of the first people to say

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK. Table listing various Israeli stocks and their performance in the New York market, including AMEX and NASDAQ indices.

Table listing Israeli stocks with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

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MISHTANIM LEADING ISSUES. Table listing top-performing Israeli stocks and their performance.

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# Cabinet's anti-strike plan raises storm

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE cabinet's secret emergency regulations to prevent strikes in the public sector, which were revealed yesterday by Yehior Aharonov, raised a storm, as some public figures accused the government of trying to destroy labor relations here.

The Histadrut, which knew about the regulations when they were enacted in December but did not publicize them, intends to petition the High Court of Justice against them next week. The large labor unions will meet on Sunday to decide on their moves to fight the government.

Labor and Meretz MKs blasted what they called the cabinet's attempt to "break" the workers, saying the moves violate laws protecting the right to organize and strike.  
The regulations, which authorize the prime minister and finance minister to order people to work in the public sector and government corporations, were signed secretly on the night of December 30, 1996. This was after the Histadrut announced a warning strike to protest a cabinet decision to slash child allowances and impose fees on doctor's visits.

Under the regulations, the right to issue work orders is no longer limited to vital services, but encompasses the entire public sector, including the rabbinical courts, health funds and local authorities.  
Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz said "the cabinet has given the prime minister

and finance minister sweeping authority intended for a state of war. It means that the premier or finance minister could charge a striking worker with the extremely grave offense of violating emergency orders, and send the army into work places. This is a violation of one of the most important basic human rights in the country."  
Labor MK Shlomo Ben-Ami called the cabinet's move "an insufferable scandal."

He urged the formation of a coalition of MKs from the Gesher faction in the Likud, Labor, Meretz and the Histadrut to ensure the legislation of basic workers' rights, which he stressed are no less important than other basic rights pertaining to human liberty and dignity.  
Meretz MK Dedi Zucker yesterday submitted a bill to cancel the "state of emergency" that has officially prevailed since

1948, which enables the enactment of such emergency regulations against strikers.  
"It is unthinkable that we should be living in an emergency situation since 1948, as though we're in the midst of the siege on Jerusalem," he said.  
Meridor tried to evade commenting on the regulations yesterday, saying he wasn't "familiar with the exact details."

"dozens" of cases in which the Knesset did agree to extend such regulations, he added.  
With the passage of the new Basic Law: The Government, which establishes direct elections for the prime minister, a new constitutional situation was created, Diskin said. This law states that the Knesset must renew the state of emergency every year, or else it automatically expires. However, he said, this provision does not take effect for the first time until a year after the law itself takes effect - and since the law took effect only in May 1996, the Knesset must reaffirm the state of emergency for the first time only in May 1997, he said.  
Finally, Diskin said, it is ridiculous to speak of the regulations being promulgated "secretly." Like all government regulations, they are published in the official gazette, *Rashumot*, for anyone to see, he said.

## COMMENT

### Gov't regularly issues emergency orders, says expert

By EVELYN GORDON

The government's promulgation of emergency orders to prevent public-sector strikes is nothing out of the ordinary, unless there is something "very unusual in their content," Prof. Abraham Diskin of Hebrew University's political science department said yesterday.

Diskin said the authority to issue such regulations stems from an order passed by the pre-Knesset Provisional Council of State, four days after the State of Israel was established. This order said that in a state of emergency, the cabinet can suspend laws passed by the Knesset in order to accomplish a defined list of goals. One of these goals is ensuring the uninterrupted supply of essential services, which means the order can be used to prevent strikes in certain industries, Diskin said.

While the government can issue such regulations only if a state of emergency has been declared, Israel has legally been in such a state ever since the First Knesset declared one in 1948, as no subsequent Knesset ever revoked this declaration, Diskin said. This means the government has been free to promulgate such regulations at will for the past 48 years.

"There has been very wide use of these powers [since 1948]," he added, noting that they have been exercised not only during wars, but in many other periods as well. "This is definitely not something new."

The government does not need Knesset approval for emergency regulations unless it wishes to keep them in force for more than three months, as the law states that all emergency regulations expire at this time if not extended by the Knesset, Diskin continued. There have been

## Tsomet: We'll bolt gov't over Jerusalem construction

By STEVE RODAN and NIM

Tsomet will leave the government coalition unless it goes ahead with plans to build Jewish homes in eastern Jerusalem, Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled said yesterday.

Peled issued the threat as Netanyahu met with US President Bill Clinton in Washington.

"I see this trip as a fateful one," Peled said. "And President Clinton has to know that the government is not in his pocket. It will fall unless there is a decision to build in Jerusalem. Tsomet, myself included, and other MKs, about 20 of us, cannot be in this government."

Earlier this week, Netanyahu said that when he returns from the US the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem will decide when to start construction in the planned neighborhood of Har Homa.

But Peled said he is skeptical that Netanyahu will act without the threat of a coalition crisis.

"Without a crisis nothing will be achieved," Peled said.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, however, told a meeting of



A woman walks past a Jerusalem bulletin board yesterday plastered with signs reading 'Bibi [Netanyahu] will divide Jerusalem.' (Brian Henley)

the Likud Secretariat yesterday that the nay-sayers should judge the government by its deeds, and not make irresponsible comments.

In a related development, Knesset Education Committee chairman Ezzamel Zissman filed a police complaint against

the Al-Quds University in eastern Jerusalem.

Zissman claimed that Al-Quds advertises itself as a degree-grant-

ing institution, though it is not accredited to grant degrees by the Council for Higher Education, as is required by Israeli law.

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## Nessim Gaon's lawyers claim son-in-law held illegally

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS - Lawyers representing Swiss businessman Nessim Gaon, who is facing bribery charges in France, say that the detention of Gaon's son-in-law, Yoel Herzog, son of former president Chaim Herzog, violates international law.

Herzog, 47, has been held by authorities in the French town of Grasse since he presented himself to police there at the beginning of December.

Herzog and Gaon are suspected of bribing Cannes Mayor Michel Mouillot. According to French police, Gaon's group, which operates the Noga Hilton Hotel and the Casino Riviera in Cannes, transferred FFr 1.5 million (more than NIS 900,000) to Mouillot to get a license to operate the casino.

The Gaon group's lawyers claim Mouillot blackmailed the board of the Noga Hilton.

French police authorized an arrest warrant for Gaon and Herzog in December, after the Casino Riviera manager told police that Herzog, who is the chairman of the Gaon group board of directors, ordered him to transfer the money to Mouillot.  
Several days later, Herzog, who has Israeli and Swiss citizenship, but resides mainly in Switzerland, presented himself to the authorities, who arrested him. Initially, police said he was detained to prevent him from contacting the other suspects. Then they said that Herzog would be held until a meeting could be arranged between him, the casino manager and Mouillot.  
Sources closed to the investigation said they suspect that Herzog gave himself up to cover Gaon.  
Gaon was released on Tuesday, following his first court hearing. He returned to Switzerland, saying he was confident that Herzog would soon be freed.

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